

SECRET

EIRS-0329/79
14 June 1979

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR:

C Chief, FPL Group

FROM:

C Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT:

Nazi War Criminals Investigation - Justice
Department Name Trace Request -- Vincentas
Brizgys, Janis Vaseris, and Talivaldis
Karklins (U)

REFERENCES:

- A. OGC 79-03562 dated 17 April 1979
- B. Department of Justice request dated
4 April 1979 (OGC 79-03438 dated
12 April 1979)
- C. OLC 77-4817 dated 4 November 1977

1. An intensive search of the files and indices of this Directorate has revealed the following information in addition to that already sent to your office as an attachment to reference C concerning Vincentas Brizgys. Attached for your retention is a DCD/C memorandum (C 1049-65) dated 13 November 1965, Subject: Case 46739 - Vincentas Brizgys, former Bishop of Kaunas, Lithuania. In regard to paragraph 1 of C 1049-65, Subject was never contacted by the DCD/ (S)

2. This search revealed no evidence of any information concerning Janis Vaseris and Talivaldis Karklins. (U)

Attachments:

1 dispatch

1 OLC 77-4817 dated 4 November 1977

OG/EIR: C 3/C 2/ran:6347 (14Jun79)

Distribution: Original - Addressee w/ref; 1 -

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CLASSIFIED BY C 3
ON 23 Nov. 1985
23 Nov. 1985

1049-65

23 Nov 65

SUBJECT: Case #6739 - Vicentus Brizgys, Former Bishop of Kaunas,
Lithuania

1. The following information concerning Bishop Vicentus Brizgys was secured through personal interviews of usually reliable contacts of the [] DCS, and through a review of files available to the Chicago Office, US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

2. Vicentus Brizgys was born 10 November 1903 at Plyniai, Lithuania, which he listed as his official residence until July, 1927. His father, now deceased, was Marijus Brizgys, who was also born in Plyniai. His mother, also deceased, was Marya Vilkelis Brizgys. She was born at Mokenons, Lithuania. There is no record of any sisters. As of 11 December 1952, Bishop Brizgys listed the following addresses for his brothers:

Simon Brizgys. 5423 South Francisco Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Joseph Brizgys. 2545 West Marquette Road, Chicago, Illinois

Peter Brizgys. 6840 South Campbell Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

3. The 1964-65 Chicago Telephone Directory has no listing under either Joseph or Peter Brizgys, but there is a listing under the name of Simon Brizgys at 6920 South Rockwell Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Phone number, 776-6062.

4. Bishop Brizgys was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest on 10 June 1927, and assigned as an Assistant Pastor in the Kalvarija, Lithuania parish from 1927 until 1930. From 1939 to 1935, he was a student in Rome, Italy and Paris, France, receiving his Doctorate in Philosophy and Canon Law. From 1936 to 1940, he was a Professor in a Catholic seminary in Lithuania. He was appointed to the Titular See of Bosana on 2 April 1940 and, on 19 May 1940, consecrated Bishop and assigned as Auxiliary to Archbishop Metropolitan of Kaunas. In 1944, Bishop Brizgys was sent to Germany by the Gestapo. Since the end of WW II, Bishop Brizgys has been Bishop of Lithuanian Refugees in Exile in Europe, USA and other countries. In 1952, he was accepted for Ecclesiastical Service in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois.

5. The above information concerning the affiliation of Bishop Brizgys with the Roman Catholic Church was contained in a statement signed by Joseph J. Skvircekef, Archbishop of Kaunas, under date of 16 June 1952, and in

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another statement by Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, under date of 9 May 1952. Because of the writing, the last four letters in the name Skvircekef may not be accurate.

6. Bishop Brizgys listed his address from July 1944 until August 1951 as 7 Alter Kornmarkt, Regensburg, Germany. In another document, he showed his address during the period of October 1948 to January 1949 as c/o Sisters of the Precious Blood, Yonkers, New York. From August, 1951 to October, 1951 he was in Venezuela. He arrived in the US on 3 October 1951, and maintained a residence with Reverend Stanley Valuckis, Chaplain of St. Casimir's Academy, 6702 South Rockwell Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. This is either a part of, or affiliated with, Maria High School, 6727 S. California Avenue, Chicago.

7. Records indicate that Bishop Brizgys first entered the US at La Guardia Airport, New York on 29 October 1948 as a non-immigrant visitor. He departed New York on 24 July 1949. He stated that, during this period, at the invitation of Bishops, he visited Lithuanian parishes in the USA and Canada, speaking about Communism in Europe. He reentered the US at New York on 3 October 1951 and departed 3 January 1952 at New Orleans. He entered again at Miami on 6 February 1952 as a non-immigrant visitor and departed at New York on 17 May 1952. On 4 July 1952, he entered the US at La Guardia as a non-immigrant visitor and a guest of Cardinal Stritch of Chicago. He was granted the privilege of preexamination and issued a non-quota immigration visa at the US Consulate in Windsor, Ontario on 11 December 1952, and reentered the US at Detroit, Michigan on the same day.

8. An I & NS Reentry Permit granting Bishop Brizgys permission to visit Colombia and Venezuela indicates that the Bishop returned to the US at Miami, Florida on 9 December 1954 and 13 August 1955. There is no record of departure dates, or the actual country, or countries visited.

9. When Bishop Brizgys first entered the US, he was carrying Passport No. 243 issued to Bishop Vincenzo Brizgys by the Vatican, Rome, Italy under date of 16 April 1947, and valid until 30 June 1953.

10. Bishop Brizgys was naturalized as a US citizen at Chicago, Illinois on 1 April 1958, Certificate number 7884358, Petition number 380884. As of 17 November 1965, his residence is in the Holy Cross Hospital, 2701 West 68th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629. This hospital is owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Casimir, the same Roman Catholic Religious Order which operates Maria High School.

11. Informants stated that Bishop Brizgys is well regarded in the Chicago area. It is believed that he was designated by the Pope to maintain contact with Lithuanian refugees in Europe and North and South America but, in 1964, responsibility for Lithuanian refugees in Europe was given to another Bishop. Bishop Brizgys may have contacts with Lithuanians in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela, as well as with those in the US and Canada. He is now in attendance at the Ecumenical Council in Rome. Whether or not he will return to Chicago immediately after the Council is adjourned on 8 December 1965, is unknown.

12. Three priests and two reporters from Lithuania are now in Rome, and it is believed that Bishop Brizgys has been unsuccessful in his efforts to secure information from them. One of the priests is believed to be a Communist sympathizer, and the other two priests are afraid to discuss the Lithuanian situation when anyone else is present. An unidentified Roman Catholic priest now in Gary, Indiana, who was a classmate of one of the priests from Lithuania attending the Ecumenical Council, was also unsuccessful in his efforts to get information from his classmate.

13. The following excerpts are from letters, dated 27 December 1962 and 1 February 1963, to the Honorable Robert Kennedy, US Attorney General, by Charles R. Allen, Jr., 120 Grant Avenue, East Rockaway, New York:

"Prelate Vincent Brizgys, now Bishop Brizgys of Chicago, Illinois

"It has been charged that he is guilty of having collaborated with the Nazis during the period when by deliberate design the Germans imposed the notorious Ost Land 'formula' on the Baltic Countries of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia which openly aimed at exterminating all Jews, Gypsies and Slavs in that area."

"On page 4 of my Dec 27, 1963 letter to you, I noted the case of Prelate Vincent Brizgys, now Bishop Brizgys of Chicago, Illinois, and charged with having committed war crimes in his native Lithuania. I am enclosing a photostatic copy of a top secret SS Operation Report issued on August 16, 1941 by the Chief of SIPO (Security Police) and the SD (Security Service) of the SS. This SS report is based in turn from other operational reports of the Nazi Einsatzgruppen in Lithuania, and, in the description of the SS report by the United States Army's Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes on March 27, 1947, dealt with persecution of Jews, atrocities against civilians, annexation of conquered territory and anti-Partisan activity.

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"In summarizing the contents of this top secret SS report, the American prosecution at Nuremberg commented as follows: Page 16: Concluding a report on religious affairs, it is stated that Bishop Brizgys has forbidden all clergy to aid Jews in any way. Then follows under the head of executive activity, a detailed list of persons liquidated during the 22 July to 2 August - - -

"I should like to note that upon the completion of this current series of articles of mine, they shall be reprinted in the form of a pamphlet. Then, an extended, book-length treatment will be published both here in this country and abroad. I do hope that I shall be able to secure the official position of your Department in these matters."

14. The series of articles mentioned by Mr. Allen were issued by the Committee Against Nazism and Anti-Semitism, room 732, 1133 Broadway, New York 10, New York.

15. Mr. Allen was advised by the Office of the US Attorney General that Bishop Brizgys had acquired US citizenship and there is no evidence upon which this citizenship may be revoked. Chicago area informants scoffed at the allegation by Allen.

16. Efforts to secure a copy of the Allen pamphlet titled, "Nazi War Criminals in Our Midst", will be continued.

17. [] DCS, has had no contact with Bishop Vicentas Brizgys. Request for security clearance will be submitted and, if cleared, Bishop Brizgys will be contacted upon his return to Chicago from Rome, for whatever reportable information he may have. An effort will also be made to identify and interview the priest in Gary, Indiana mentioned in paragraph 12.

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Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 4, 1977

OLC-77-
4817

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

As you may know, my Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and International Law has been conducting for some time its own oversight investigation regarding various alleged Nazi war criminals who are currently residing in the United States.

In order to assist us in our investigation, I would respectively request a detailed report (including a summary thereof) on all information that is in your possession concerning the enclosed list of individuals. In addition, I would request that my Subcommittee staff have access to all information in CIA's files which relate to these individuals. It is my understanding that agency officials have discussed this matter today with members of my staff and that tentative arrangements have been worked out to protect the confidentiality of information contained in those files which relate to CIA sources or methods of operation.

I would also request that you personally provide me with a complete briefing as soon as possible regarding any CIA relationships with, or any information in your possession on, the following individuals:

- * I 1. ARTUKOVIC, Andrija
- * I 2. DEMJANJUK, John aka DEMJANJUK, Iwan aka GROZNY, Iwan (Ivan The Terrible)
- * I 3. DETLANS, Karlis
- * I 4. FEDORENKO, Fedor aka FEDORENDO, Fedor Dimitrievich aka FEDORLIN, Fedor aka SERDIUK, Vladimir
- * I 5. HANEE, Konstanty
- * I 6. HAZNERS, VITIS A.
- * I 7. KAMINSKAS, Bronius aka KAMINSKAS, Bruno
- * I 8. KOWALCHUK, Mykola aka KOWALCZUK, Mykola
- * I 9. KOWALCHUK, Serge aka KOWALCZUK, Serhij
- * I 10. LAIPENIEKS, Edgars aka LAIFENIEKS, Edgar aka BUSCH, Edgars laipenieks
- * I 11. LAIKOVSKIS, Poleslavs
- * I 12. PASKER, NIKO aka PASKEVICIUS, NIKO
- * I 13. SUDZICHOV, Ischerim aka SHUMALZOGA, Abdel-Karim
- * I 14. TRIVZ, Valerian
- * I 15. VALUS, Frank aka VALUS, Franciszek

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-10-80 BY 1045

and Stamford Tower

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I am hopeful that your schedule will permit such a briefing sometime
week.

I wish to advise you of my deep interest in this subject matter, and
particularly would appreciate your prompt cooperation in complying with my
request.

Sincerely,

Joshua Eilberg
JOSHUA EILBERG
Chairman